

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete list of the claims. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

Claim 1 (currently amended): An image processing method for instructing an image output unit to output onto a recording medium a reference image based on a predetermined patch pattern, and generating an image output condition of the image output unit on the basis of data read from the reference image output by the image output unit using a flatbed scanner,

wherein, in the patch pattern, plural identical patches of the reference image are disposed at different positions on the recording medium, including at different positions in a main-scan direction and in a sub-scan direction, [[and]]

wherein the image output condition is generated using the plural identical patches disposed at different positions on the recording medium in the main-scan direction and in the sub-scan direction, and

wherein an influence of noise in the reading by the flatbed scanner is reduced by using the plural identical patches for generating the image output condition.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein an average is obtained of the data concerning the plural identical patches read from the reference image.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the number of patches varies according to a color of the patches.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the patch varies~~ a patch's characteristics vary according to ~~a kind of signal used in the an~~ image output unit signal.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the number of patches at a high density portion of the reference image is larger than the number of patches at a low density portion of the reference image.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus which comprises;

instruction means for instructing an image output unit to output onto a recording medium a reference image based on a predetermined patch pattern[[,]]; and

generation means for generating an image output condition of the image output unit on the basis of read data obtained by reading the reference image output from the image output unit ~~with use of~~ using a flatbed scanner,

wherein, in the patch pattern, plural identical patches of the reference image are disposed, by said image output unit, at different positions on the recording medium, including at different positions in a main-scan direction and in a sub-scan direction, [[and]]

wherein the image output condition is generated by said generating means using the plural identical patches disposed at different positions on the recording medium in the main-scan direction and in the sub-scan direction, and

wherein an influence of noise in the reading by the flatbed scanner is reduced by using the plural identical patches for generating the image output condition.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A recording medium recording a program to execute an image processing method, said program comprising:

code for instructing an image output unit to output a reference image based on a patch pattern; and

code for generating an image output condition of the image output unit on the basis of data read from the reference image output by the image output unit using a flatbed scanner,

wherein, in the patch pattern, plural identical patches of the reference image are instructed by said instructing code to be disposed at different positions on the recording medium, including at the different positions in a main-scan direction and a sub-scan direction, [[and]]

wherein the image output condition is generated by said generating code using the plural identical patches disposed at different positions on the recording medium in the main-scan direction and in the sub-scan direction, and

wherein an influence of noise in the reading by the flatbed scanner is reduced by using the plural identical patches for generating the image output condition.